

In the claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a slurry, comprising:
processing a powder in a fluid energy mill;
prior to allowing said powder to fully settle, increasing the bulk density of said powder by deaerating said powder by placing said powder in a container;
and injecting a pressurization gas into the area of said container containing said powder such that the gas pressure in the area of said container is increased to a level above atmospheric pressure at a rate sufficient to cause said powder to compact before a substantial portion of said pressurization gas diffuses into said powder;
removing said compacted powder from said container; and
dispersing said densified powder into a liquid medium.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1 wherein said powder is titanium dioxide pigment, and said liquid medium is water.
4. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a concentrated titanium dioxide pigment slurry, comprising:
milling a titanium dioxide pigment in a fluid energy mill;
prior to allowing said titanium dioxide pigment to fully settle, increasing the bulk density of said pigment by:
placing said titanium dioxide pigment in a container; and
injecting a pressurization gas into the area of said container containing said titanium dioxide pigment such that the gas pressure is increased to a level